## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

TRUSTEES OF THE WILI	L COUNTY LOCAL	)
174 CARPENTERS PENSI	ION TRUST FUND	)
and WILL COUNTY LOC	AL 174 WELFARE	)
FUND,		)
		) No. 17 CV 80
Plaintiffs,		)
		) Judge
v.		)
		) Magistrate Judge
CARLSON CONSTRUCTORS CORP,		)
an Illinois corporation,		)
-		)
	Defendant.	)

## **COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs, TRUSTEES OF THE WILL COUNTY LOCAL 174 CARPENTERS
PENSION TRUST FUND and WILL COUNTY LOCAL 174 CARPENTERS WELFARE
FUND, by their attorneys, DONALD D. SCHWARTZ, ANDREW S. PIGOTT, PAUL M.
EGAN, and ARNOLD AND KADJAN, LLP, complain against Defendant, CARLSON
CONSTRUCTORS CORP. ("CARLSON"), an Illinois corporation, as follows:

- (a) Jurisdiction of this cause is based on Section 301 of the National Labor
   Relations Act, 29 U.S. C. Section 185(a) as amended.
- (b) Jurisdiction of this cause is based upon Section 502 of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. Section 1132, 1145 ("ERISA"), as amended.
- 2. Venue is founded pursuant to 29 U.S.C. Section 1132(e)(2) in this District where the Funds, as described in Paragraph 3, are administered.
- 3. (a) The Plaintiffs in this count are TRUSTEES OF THE WILL COUNTY LOCAL 174 CARPENTERS PENSION TRUST FUND and WILL COUNTY LOCAL 174

CARPENTERS WELFARE FUND ("the Funds"), and have standing to sue pursuant to 29 U.S.C. Section 1132(d)(1).

- (b) The Funds have been established pursuant to Collective Bargaining Agreements previously entered into between the Chicago and Northeast Illinois District Council of Carpenters and its affiliated locals (the "Union") and certain employer associations whose employees are covered by the collective bargaining agreement with the Union.
- (c) The Funds are maintained and administered in accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act, as amended, and other applicable state and federal laws and also pursuant to the terms and provisions of the agreements and Declarations of Trust which establish the Funds.
  - 4. (a) Defendant, **CARLSON** incorporated under the laws of Illinois
- (b) **CARLSON** is an employer engaged in an industry affecting commerce, and does business within the Northern District of Illinois.
- 5. Since January 1, 2014, or before, **CARLSON** entered into successive Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Union pursuant to which it is required to pay specified wages and to make periodic contributions to the Funds on behalf of certain of its employees.
- 6. Alternatively, since January 1, 2014, or before, **CARLSON** bound itself to successive Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Union by its course of conduct, including:
  - (a) Withholding of Union dues on behalf of its bargaining unit employees;
- (b) Reporting and paying fringe benefit contributions on behalf of its bargaining unit members.
- 7. By virtue of certain provisions contained in the Collective Bargaining Agreements, **CARLSON** is bound by the Trust Agreements establishing the Funds.

- 8. Under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreements and Trust Agreements to which it is bound, **CARLSON** is required to make contributions to the Funds on behalf of its employees for their hours of work.
- 9. Under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement **CARLSON** may not subcontract work covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement to entities that do not have their own Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Union.
- 10. In the event **CARLSON** subcontracted bargaining unit work to a non-Union entity, **CARLSON** would be responsible to contribute for the hours worked by the subcontractor.
- 11. Under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreements and Trust Agreements to which it is bound, **CARLSON**, when given reasonable notice by Plaintiffs or their representatives, is required to submit all necessary books and records to Plaintiffs' auditor for the purpose of determining whether or not it is in compliance with its obligation to contribute to the Funds.
- 12. In or around January 2017, Plaintiffs auditor attempted to review **CARLSON**'s books and records to determine its compliance with its contribution obligations from January 1, 2014 forward.
- 13. In the course of his review, the auditor discovered **CARLSON** subcontracted a substantial amount of work to **CB INDUSTRIES**, **INC.** ("CB").
  - 14. **CB** does not have a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Union.
- 15. The auditor requested **CARLSON** produce its records respecting the work **CB** performed for **CARLSON**, and the hours **CB** worked, but **CARLSON** refused.
  - 16. The auditor cannot determine **CARLSON**'s compliance or non-compliance with

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its contribution obligations without its provision of its records surrounding CB.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs pray for relief as follows:

A. Entry of an order compelling **CARLSON** to tender its records surrounding the

hours and nature of **CB**'s work, to permit completion of the audit.

B. Entry of a judgment for any amounts determined to be due by the completed

audit.

C. Plaintiffs be awarded their costs herein, including reasonable attorneys' fees and

costs incurred in the prosecution of this action, together with liquidated damages in the amount

of 20%, all as provided in the applicable agreement and ERISA Section 502(g)(2).

D. This Court grant Plaintiffs such other and further relief as it may deem

appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

TRUSTEES OF THE WILL COUNTY LOCAL

174 CARPENTERS, et al.

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